

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-88 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 21-92 of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,722 to Miyauchi et al. ("Miyauchi").

Concurrently with this Request for Reconsideration, Applicants herewith file a Terminal Disclaimer, which obviates the double patenting rejection¹. In accordance with the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer "is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection." (MPEP § 804.02.II).

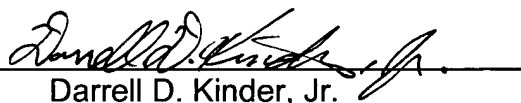
In view of the foregoing remarks, and the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 28, 2006

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¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement of characterization in the Office Action.